



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,219	02/20/2001	Kaoru Shimamura	1614.1125	3949

21171 7590 09/25/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
SUITE 700
1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

WANG, JIN CHENG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2672

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/785,219

Applicant(s)

SHIMAMURA, KAORU

Examiner

Jin-Cheng Wang

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5-7,9,10,12,14,16,18,20 and 22-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment B filed on 07/30/2003 has been entered. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 23-25 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayama et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,421,032 (hereinafter Hayama); in view of Funyu U.S. Patent No. 6,320,587 (hereinafter Funyu).

3. Claim 1:

(a) Hayama has taught a character processing apparatus (figures 11-25) which is connectable to a plurality of input terminal equipments and to a character information creating terminal equipment via a network (column 11, lines 47-67, column 12, lines 1-12, column 17, lines 8-64), comprising:

A receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from one of the input terminal equipments (column 11, lines 60-67, column 12, lines 1-12, and column 17, lines 8-64);

Art Unit: 2672

A code allocating section allocating a code to the requested character information (column 17, lines 65-67, and column 18, lines 1-12);

A control section to control creation of character information based on the requested character information, within the character information creating terminal equipment (figure 11, column 11, lines 48-67, and column 12, lines 1-12, column 23, lines 40-67, column 24, lines 1-58, and column 25, lines 11-32);

A setting section to set created character information with respect to the allocated code (column 17, lines 65-67, column 18, lines 1-12, and column 23, lines 3-65).

(b) However, Hayama does not explicitly disclose the claimed limitation that (1) “A receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from *an arbitrary* one of the input terminal equipments”; (2) “A setting section setting created character information with respect to the allocated code, *so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*”.

(c) Funyu teaches the claimed limitation of that (1) “A receiving section to receive a request for character information which relates to an external character from *an arbitrary* one of the input terminal equipments” (the input terminal equipments of the WWW server 41 or the WWW client 61. See Funyu figures 2B and 3; column 9, lines 25-46); (2) “A setting section to set created character information with respect to the allocated code, *so that the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*” (e.g., Funyu figures 2B and 3; column 12, lines 66-67; column 13, lines 1-32).

Art Unit: 2672

- Note: The examiner has interpreted the claim limitation of any input terminal equipment rather specifically in terms of any input terminal equipment *on a computer system over the network*. The claim 1 however set forth a limitation that may encompasses any arbitrary input terminal equipment *among a plurality of such equipments in a single computer system connectable to the network*.

(d) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple terminal equipments of Funyu in the Hayama's apparatus because such a construction would have provided a means for sharing resources and distributing/creating the external character codes through the network.

(e) Such modification would have been required for sharing resources among multiple platforms because Hayama suggests incorporating a PC or workstation in his apparatus thereby suggesting the obvious modification.

More specifically, in column 27, lines 4-14 of Hayama, it is stated "It should be noted that while the foregoing embodiment has been described in connection with the stamp-making apparatus having a small display, the present invention may also be applied to a multi-window environment in a personal computer, a work station, or the like which can open a number of windows on a single display screen, wherein an external character such as a convenient-sized figure or the like is created in a window of a size substantially equal to that of a so-called icon in a rather small area on the display screen on which a number of windows are open for other operations."

Therefore, Hayama's apparatus may incorporate a PC or workstation that can not be enclosed in a case. The control block 300 of FIG. 11 having a component of PC or workstation

Art Unit: 2672

must therefore NOT be enclosed in a case. As a result, a plurality of input terminal equipments (such as Function Switch 8, Push Button Group 22. See Figure 11 of Hayama) of Hayama's apparatus must be connected to the control block via the Input Interface 304 to an interface bus or a network interface.

(f) One having the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this because it facilitate sharing of resources among multiple users.

Claim 3:

The claim 3 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments. However, the Hayama reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a distributing section distributing the created character information to the input terminal equipments (column 20, lines 28-59).

4. Claim 5:

(a) Hayama has taught a character processing system (figures 11-25) comprising:

A plurality of input terminal equipments (figure 11);

A character processing apparatus coupled to the at least one input terminal equipment via a network (figure 11);

Each of said input terminal equipments comprising a requesting section requesting character information, which relates to an external character, with respect to the character processing apparatus (column 11, lines 60-67, column 12, lines 1-12, and column 17, lines 8-64);

Art Unit: 2672

With said character processing apparatus further comprising: An allocating section allocating a code to the requested character information requested by the requesting section (column 17, lines 65-67, and column 18, lines 1-12);

A first notifying section notifying the code to the input terminal equipment (figure 20);

A creating section creating the requested character information based on the requested character information (figure 11, column 11, lines 48-67, and column 12, lines 1-12, column 23, lines 40-67, column 24, lines 1-58, and column 25, lines 11-32);

A second notifying section notifying the created character information to the input terminal equipments (figures 24-25).

(b) However, Hayama does not explicitly disclose the claimed limitation that (1) “*the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*” through the network.

(c) Funyu teaches the claimed limitation of that (1) “*the created character information is accessible from each of the input terminal equipments*” through the network (e.g., Funyu figures 2B and 3; column 12, lines 66-67; column 13, lines 1-32).

(d) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated the multiple terminal equipments of Funyu in the Hayama’s apparatus because such a construction would have provided a means for sharing resources and distributing/creating the external character codes through the network.

(e) Such modification would have been required for sharing resources among multiple platforms because Hayama suggests incorporating a PC or workstation in his apparatus thereby suggesting the obvious modification.

More specifically, in column 27, lines 4-14 of Hayama, it is stated "It should be noted that while the foregoing embodiment has been described in connection with the stamp-making apparatus having a small display, the present invention may also be applied to a multi-window environment in a personal computer, a work station, or the like which can open a number of windows on a single display screen, wherein an external character such as a convenient-sized figure or the like is created in a window of a size substantially equal to that of a so-called icon in a rather small area on the display screen on which a number of windows are open for other operations."

Therefore, Hayama's apparatus may incorporate a PC or workstation that can not be enclosed in a case. The control block 300 of FIG. 11 having a component of PC or workstation must therefore NOT be enclosed in a case. As a result, a plurality of input terminal equipments (such as Function Switch 8, Push Button Group 22. See Figure 11 of Hayama) of Hayama's apparatus must be connected to the control block via the Input Interface 304 to an interface bus or a network interface.

(f) One having the ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this because it facilitate sharing of resources among multiple users.

Claim 6:

The claim 6 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment when the code is allocated by the allocating section. However, Hayama further

Art Unit: 2672

discloses the claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment when the code is allocated by the allocating section (figure 20).

Claim 7:

The claim 7 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment after the code is allocated by the allocating section. However, Hayama further discloses the claimed limitation that the first notifying section notifies the code to the input terminal equipment after the code is allocated by the allocating section (figure 20).

Claim 9:

The claim 9 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that the second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipment. However, Hayama further discloses the claimed limitation that the second notifying section also notifies the code to the input terminal equipment (figure 20).

Claims 10, 12, 14:

The claim 10, 12, or 14 is a rephrasing of claim 1, 5 and 5 in a method form. The claims are rejected for the same reason as set forth in claims 1 and 5.

Claims 16, 18, 20:

The claim 16, 18, or 20 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1, 5 and 5 except additional claimed limitation of a storage medium. However, the Yayama reference further discloses the claimed limitation of a storage medium (column 11, lines 48-67, and column 12, lines 1-12).

Claim 22:

Art Unit: 2672

The claim 22 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation of the character information creating terminal equipment including the creating section. However, Hayama further discloses the claimed limitation of the character information creating terminal equipment including the creating section (figure 11, column 11, lines 48-67, and column 12, lines 1-12, column 23, lines 40-67, column 24, lines 1-58, and column 25, lines 11-32).

Claim 23:

The claim 23 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 1 except additional claimed limitation of an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipment. However, Hayama further discloses the claimed limitation of an environment setting section setting an external character environment to be used in the input terminal equipment (column 26, lines 29-55).

Claim 24:

The claim 24 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 5 except additional claimed limitation that is identical to claim 23. The claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 23.

Claim 25:

The claim 25 encompasses the same scope of invention as that of claim 10 except additional claimed limitation that is identical to claim 23. The claim is rejected for the same reason as set forth in claim 23.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2672

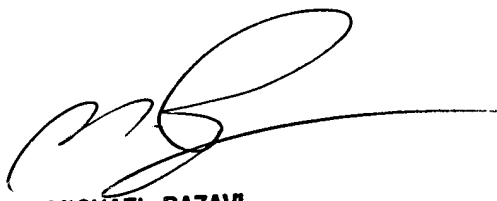
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jin-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (703) 605-1213.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Razavi can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 395-3900.

jcw



MICHAEL RAZAVI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600